

The Pawtucket School Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at the Jenks/JMW Complex for the Performing and Visual Arts at 6:00 PM. This meeting was opened to the public.

I. Meeting will come to order: Roll call:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator; Mr. Michael McAtee and Mr. Stephen M. Robinson, Legal Counsel for the Pawtucket School Committee.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Chairperson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IX. Celebration/Recognition:

Slater Basketball Team—2011 Middle School Basketball State Championship:

The Chairperson asked Ms. Nordquist to present the Slater Basketball Team—2011 Middle School Basketball State Champions.

Ms. Nordquist: Congratulations. As you can see we have a fine group of students in the audience, they are the Slater Boys Basketball Team and they won the Middle School Basketball State Championship. This team had an undefeated season and scored an

average of 19.9 points. As we were meeting last evening on February 15, 2011, they overcame a 17 point deficit to win. The coach never gave up despite being down 17 points. The School Committee and parents are very proud of you. Ms. Nordquist acknowledged the coach, Chris Walsh. Congratulations again.

Mrs. Cylke: On behalf of the School Department and the School Committee congratulations for winning the State Championship. This is a tradition that we always had in Reno. Next time we have an assembly and the coach makes a half court shot, I'll buy everyone a candy bar. If I make the shot you have to do a hula dance.

On a serious side, winning is a great feeling. Perseverance hanging in there and listening—those are the skills that will serve you time and time again. Remember the skills that the coach taught you. Congratulations.

Tolman Parents: Karin and Rob Donovan:

Mrs. Cylke: We're pleased to recognize two parents and want to bring forward Mr. Silva and Mr. and Mrs. Rob Donovan.

Mr. Silva: Mr. and Mrs. Donovan have been on the school improvement team for six years and we want to publicly thank them. They attended every meeting. We had policies that we thought were really good and she would rip them apart, but they came and we want to say thank you. Their kids have graduated and gone on to college.

Mrs. Cylke presented the Donovans with certificates.

Mr. and Mrs. Donovan: Thank you so much.

III. Special Reports of Student Representatives:

Charles E. Shea High School: Luckson O./ Melitzi T:

Melitzi: Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I'm a senior at Shea. This past Friday was our senior supper which was thrilling and fun. Another thing that is making us all nervous is the portfolio review that is tomorrow. We R Shea High Art Contest—it's becoming very competitive and secretive. We display our love at Shea High School through a piece of art and whoever gets judged the best wins a prize and gets to display it. We are very proud of our behavioral honor roll which our numbers nearly doubled—so almost half of our school is on the behavioral honor roll this year. Another thing that's really exciting for seniors this year is the college acceptances board in guidance. It's filled with schools on it from Rensselaer to Columbia College to Cornell and so forth.

Luckson: Before I start I'd like to congratulate the Slater Spartans on their basketball win again. I went to Slater myself in my eighth grade year and I hope you can bring it back to Shea because you have a good team and we could really use you. We have a play coming up, it's called "Play the Game." Shea's Got Talent is coming up on March 24th. I'm going to be hosting that with another colleague of mine. We will be having a Fashion Show in May. The Student Council went to Portsmouth as part of the Project Unity and it was an exciting opportunity to see kids from other schools; how they spend their days and they're coming to our school on Friday to experience the same thing. We had a lot of good experiences. They showed us the differences between the two schools. The juniors are looking forward to doing the Science Necaps.

William E. Tolman High School: Alicia B.:

Alicia: Hi. Just to update on some stuff that's going on at Tolman academically. Juniors are receiving their cumulative results from Necaps and evaluating those needs they see for the future in the lower grades and how we can improve on that. Seniors have already completed portfolio reviews and are awaiting that tomorrow. Our AP press is going strong right now and the end of this semester marks the beginning of the quarter in which our AP classes focuses specifically on preparing for these college level tests. On a more fun note, we had a movie night last night to raise money for the music and art department. We have a talent show coming up. We have some great extra-curricular things happening; spring sports are starting. Tryouts for softball were yesterday, volleyball started last week. The science Olympia team and chem. club at Tolman are preparing for the RI States Olympia at Rhode Island College. The junior prom is coming up in April.

Jacqueline M. Walsh School for Performing and Visual Arts: Emily S/Noelle C.:

Noelle: Hello there my name is Noelle and I'm a here to tell you a little bit about all the cool stuff that is going on at JMW. I very happy to say that Joelle, a junior here recently won the Rhode Island title for Poetry Out Loud and she'll be representing our state in Washington DC in April and she worked really hard for this so we are all very happy for her. JMW will be holding its school wide prom on Friday, May 13 at the Johnson and Wales facility. William, a junior dance major was recently awarded the first annual Anthony Quinn Foundation Scholarship. He was the only recipient in this

international scholarship. He will use this scholarship to attend Trinity summer program and Shakespeare workshop. Also JMW and RISD are collaborating on project open door at Walsh; an afterschool program for students in grades eight and nine from Pawtucket and neighboring communities. Also something that is very interesting to me is that the JMW music department is officially establishing itself as a chapter in the Tri M Music Honor Society. It's a big group much like the national honor society specifically for musicians and we do a lot of volunteer work and fundraising. We'll be having our induction ceremony on Wednesday, March 30th and you're all invited to attend. For senior and music majors like myself, we will be having our senior recital on May 4th. We just finished auditions for our second school play. It will be taking place on May 19th, 20th and 21st in the outdoor amphitheater downtown. Lastly, we had our eighties karaoke dance hosted by the seniors and it was as hokey as it sounds. There was just too much hair spray, it was a great time. Thank you for having me.

Mr. Spooner: In a day and age when you pick up a newspaper and see the news and how depressing it is; it's so refreshing to come here and see these kids represent their schools and talk so enthusiastically about what is going on there. That's the reason we're all here anyway. We have our ups and downs and in the end, this is what it's all about. It's a great night so far.

IV. Presentation: Charles E. Shea High School NEASC Visit—Dr. Lord; Anna Grady; Grace Malkasian; Luckson O. and Melitzi T.:

Dr. Lord: Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. Dr. Lord

handed out a large document and explained the upcoming NEASC visit scheduled for his school May 1 through May 4, 2011.

Dr. Lord commented on Shea's mission statement, core values, learning expectations, the cooperation of Central Office and I Walk instruction. Dr. Lord further discussed leadership and culture and how students and school are most important and while leadership is important it's not about the principal. Leaders surround themselves with good people and community support. Dr. Lord explained how the NEASC team will score Shea on their standards and if they score a deficient they risk losing the accreditation. The NEASC team is comprised of educators from all over New England.

Melitzi: This will be our first visit as students. We're looking forward to being shadowed in a very diverse community. This is a very serious time for us.

Luckson: We are students that are proving daily that we can succeed with the help of our staff. Thank you very much.

Ms. Malkasian: We would like to officially invite you all to our NEASC visit. Generally the time is 3:00 PM. You can also feel free to join us on any other day.

Ms. Grady: We also provided you with the one sheet that has some suggested questions that the team may ask you. It may actually start at 1:00 PM on Sunday. The interviews are up to the Chair.

Mr. Noonan: Additional questions are provided to the School Committee?

Ms. Grady: We're not sure. Dr. Lord has some material.

Mr. Coughlin: Should we expect one on one or as a group?

Dr. Lord: As a group. There are teams that meet with each group. I wanted as much information as I could provide.

Mr. Noonan: Is anyone here attending?

Mr. Spooner: I attended the last one at Shea. We didn't know any of the questions of the last one.

VIII. Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes 2/15/11:

Mr. Coughlin moved to accept and approve the minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting. **Mr. Noonan** seconded.

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion passed unanimously.

X. Public Participation:

None.

XI. New Business:

1. Appointments:

Mrs. Cylke: We are recommending that the Committee approve the appointment of Kathryn Vellucci, Elementary Teacher, Grade One, Baldwin, Step One.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the appointment of Kathryn Vellucci, 43 Berm Drive, Cumberland, RI 02864 to Elementary Teacher, Grade one at Baldwin, Step One. **Ms. Bonollo** seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: The last appointment was automatically non renewed, is that the case with this one?

Ms. Mercer: She already got the notice.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes;

Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Non Renewal(s):

None

3. Award of Bid-Installation of Visual Projection Equipment – Auditorium Jenks/JMW:

Mrs. Cylke: We're asking the Committee's recommendation to replace the severed and torn electrical screen that was installed when the school was originally built back in the seventies. The LCD projector is being purchased exclusively for the auditorium to accommodate the screen of that size and to avoid the cost of renting equipment in the future for presentations. The entire learning community at the Jenks/JMW Complex and the District will benefit from it. We're asking the Committee to approve the award to PMA Industries, Inc. 681 Killingly Street, Johnston RI for \$10,172.00.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the award of the installation of visual projection equipment-auditorium at the Jenks/JMW Complex for Performing and Visual Arts bid to PMA Industries, Inc. 681 Killingly Street, Johnston RI 02919 in the total amount of \$10,172.00. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes;

Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

4. MGT—Facilities Report:

Mrs. Cylke: As you may know, Mr. Knight and Ms. Bonollo co chaired

that facilities subcommittee and Joe DaSilva from RIDE came and did a presentation at one of our meetings and I want to talk about why this is so important. RIDE has some very strict regulations and it's all outlined in a fifty page document called the necessity of construction.

In order for the Pawtucket School Department to address the Facilities needs, we have a phase I, a phase II and a phase III application process. What we're asking the School Committee once it's been presented is for the School Committee to accept the report because you can't submit phase I unless you have a good feel for it. We'll then immediately begin phase II which will be a more in depth study of the needs at each school. Dds and Sue welcome. I have to say when I first received the draft, I wanted to go straight to the end and we have to start this and get MGT to get us to look at the big picture. We have to do this. This is going to be a process and there is going to be a timeline. We want to work in a way that is going to be very smart and our priorities are ones that we all feel very comfortable with. This is a really important night and the beginning of a journey that's going to be a good decade long.

Dds: Thank you for having us back tonight. The goals were to do a facility assessment, building condition assessment, technology readiness report , grounds assessment and suitability report. Were the buildings you have in the right environment? We did a building and visual assessment. We looked at how well the building fit the educational program going on in the building. We looked at readiness assessment. Were the spaces you have appropriate with the equipment. We looked not so much as how many computers

there were in each classroom, but were there enough outlets to support the program. Each assessment ends up with a score on a hundred point scale so it's easy to interpret the score. So if a building scored eighty, subtract that from one hundred and you get twenty. That's called the facility condition index.

We developed budget projection from the assessment and looked at what it would look like to submit to RIDE.

Sue: Dds is the architect and I'm the educator. I have thirty seven years experience in the public school system and it is our goal to bring you an educational assessment. These are not offices. These are schools. They need to reflect what we know what it takes to have a school building support a program. We brought in a team of educators that looks at all the systems. We would look at the outside, is there enough pavement for the staff to park? Is there a safe route for the kids to get if their Moms drop them off or if the bus drops them off. We looked at the educational space of that building. We looked at the size of the library, whether they were well located is the library right next to the music room? Is the right stuff in there?

Power Point Presentation:

We looked at the size of classrooms. Was there enough space? How is the electrical in there? Is the right stuff in there? We gathered all this information and did an assessment. A score of one hundred is perfect. None of those schools in Pawtucket scored one hundred, but there were no zero's either. A score of unsatisfactory means that building is getting in the way of your educational needs of the children of Pawtucket.

85-100 is good; 70-84 is fair; 55-69 is poor; less than 55 is unsatisfactory from educational factor. The educational suitability scores are as follows:

The elementary schools in Pawtucket scored between 26 and 69 with an average of 44.

The middle schools scored between 34 and 74 with an average of 56.

The high schools scored between 37 and 49 with the average of 43.

Other is the administration building with a scored of 84.

Next we looked at the architectural structure for the condition of the building. The scoring on this is different. As Dds said it's the parking lot, electrical, the windows the doors, we're looking at all those things. This is very different.

Ninety or above is for newer buildings.

80-90 is good; 70-89 is fair; 55-69 is poor; and below 55 if unsatisfactory.

The elementary schools scored between 58 and 79 for an average of 68.

The middle schools scored between 54 and 70 for an average of 61.

The high schools scored between 55 and 80 for an average of 64.

Third assessment you have your technology readiness. This is not how many computers, it's do you have the infrastructure to support it behind the walls. You have done an amazing job to put out district wide access to technology. You have put out a district wide initiative.

Your schools are much more even wide distributed when it comes to technology.

Fourth you have the condition of building which includes sidewalks,

athletic fields and parking lots. Below 65 is unsatisfactory. All of this gets put together to help us help you decide what your priorities are. Those four scores; MGT has developed a methodology of combining those to give you a chance to develop a ten year capital improvement project that addresses the deficiencies in this facility assessment study. We have combined these four scores to focus on 40% of the weight is the combined score of educational suitability, 40% on building conditions and 10% only with site conditions or technology readiness. The bulk of the readiness that you put in is really on education and the condition of the building. The bulk is site readiness and appropriateness of education for a combined force.

Mrs. Cylke: I want to add we put 40% on education. If we were a fast growing district and the last fifteen schools had been built in the last ten years and we wanted to upgrade technology. We would be upgrading technology in a much higher portion. Because of the age of our schools, we felt that is where we really needed to look at educational suitability and building suitability. We thought building conditions were a higher priority. Not that technology isn't important, but in terms of creating a priority list a lot depends on the School Department.

Dds: The next step is to do budget projections. We don't do cost estimates and depending on how you actually solve a problem depends on how much it will cost, so we use a model. These are planning models. We start with real costs in the field. We like to get a project cost and furnish equipment and also add a factor and get us to an elementary school. This would be a good budget figure to use.

Building new is better than renovating. Renovating is generally more expensive and more complicated. You have things that are hidden from you so you have to add a renovation factor cost. So we end up with about a \$230 square foot cost at the elementary level.

In the next line you'll see we totaled up and what we do instead of subtracting from 100, we subtract from 90. The aging for a building is an ongoing process.

We take suitability, site and technology to a 90 as well. The projected budget is about \$50 million; a district total of about \$152,000,000. You have some old schools that are large that have been here a long time. Our recommendation is a capital ten year program that lineates a ten year program in three phases with the higher priority in phase I and the lower priority in phase III. We prioritized based on those combined scores in all different schools to see what schools should be done in phase I and II and III and we also realize that sometimes instead of just doing whole a school it's more cost effective to bundle projects, i.e. roofs, or some elements of deficiencies you might think are worthy of being done. We also recommend you have a long range attendance plan. Look at attendance boundaries and assess those and attendance space and where you may have excess space. Find out what the community feels.

Mr. Noonan: Would you be available to answer questions outside the meeting?

Dds: Yes.

Mr. Noonan: You mentioned another architect firm, H. L. Turner.

Where are they located?

Dds: New Hampshire.

Mr. Noonan: They were the estimators? Did you have any objection to what they did? Combined score methodology developed by MGT?

Do you have someone else to compare it too?

Dds: No that is combined and done by us.

Sue: Some firms don't do four scores and might not do an educational piece. We think it's a holistic piece.

Mrs. Cylke: When we put this out to bid, one piece was they had to have the architect and the educational piece. They had to be familiar with the code in New England.

Ms. Nordquist: I just want to say thank you and I'm not sure who to ask this question, but every five years we get a \$5,000,000 bond and that totals \$15,000,000 so we're are we going to get \$151,000,000 over ten years what is the next step?

Mrs. Cylke: In Rhode Island these projects are reimbursed at 75%. We would actually owe \$112,000,000. The next step is to put in our phase II application as Mr. Conlon would put in we go out to bid again and we have a more detailed plan. In phase I if we select these schools and remodel and renovate, those have to be approved and in the end RIDE won't reimburse us unless they've seen the plan in advance, it's a solid plan and they approve the plan. Typically there's a bond you can float in your community. In most cities there's competing forces. The libraries want money for library upgrades, parks and recreation wants money to upgrade parks and recreation police and fire want a new police and fire station. School

departments want money for renovations. Usually in a community there is a balance but I think once we move to phase II we as a community have to move forward as a community at large and go through what we call Charettes and get our parents and students and go through a lot of detail input and identify the need that it's about the quality of education in Pawtucket.

Ms. Nordquist: The second part of your recommendation talks about how long range facilities in schools and the study and the recommendation for consolidation for construction for new schools. What would your normal recommendation be in that case? Would you put all that money into that renovation or would you suggest ...because I thought the reimbursement was for something else.

Mr. Conlon: This entire facilities assessment is just one component of a stage I application that's very general in nature. It tells us what we need to do. After stage I is submitted, stage II is very much more detailed and involves an architectural feasibility study. There are commissioning agents and a whole list of agents that are put out by the Department of Education that have to be followed. The whole point of this process is so that before we submit any further projects to RIDE to get reimbursed at the 74% rate, they will have already have the experts looked at the project we want to do, vetted them and say yes or no it is worth doing this you should do this because it's worth it from the State's point of view. This all came about when Providence was going to build six schools before Tom Brady came in.

They had the Department of Education create these new rules and regulations to make sure that whatever we're putting forward is worth

doing from both the physical aspect of the facilities and the educational suitability. The educational suitability we had to have as part of this MGT process because it is required by RIDE. They require two things; the facility assessment and education suitability. It's required by RIDE once they "bless" it all when we submit the projects for reimbursement on future dates, they will have already received a pre-approval. They do recognize and will acknowledge that communities are stressed. Bonds are not unlimited and there is a lot going on. But if we do not go through it, we will not get a reimbursement for any of the projects we put through.

Mr. Spooner: Does that include the square footage?

Mr. Conlon: Yes capacity and utilization. It takes demographics, enrollment projections, school boundaries and RIDE has a team look at this process and it may come back to us and go back to them before they finally do approve it. East Providence has already done it.

Ms. Nordquist: Thank you. I'm glad you took educational readiness into account.

Mr. Araujo: I have a question regarding projection. If we have a project that we choose to do eight years from now, would these projections suffice for all the eight years?

Dds: We didn't inflate the numbers.

Mr. Araujo: Based on real time numbers?

Mr. Tenreiro: The number is a sticker shock. It's lower than I guessed. The important thing that has been said by people is the community support that would have to be involved. I think following

through this process and giving people a chance to see what the Pawtucket Schools can look like will be very important. The good thing is I think the community would agree the schools need work. When you think of renovations going to green technology and making schools “green” is there that thought of thought process that happens in phase II? Is that a conversation that happens with the district if they want to pursue that type of direction with their buildings?

Dds: That’s exactly why we took this approach. You may set the bar a little higher. You may decide you want a “green” school.

Mr. Tenreiro: There seems to be certain safety things. I see thirteen of them here; bus and parent drop off at thirteen of our schools our unsatisfactory. I think we should address those safety issues right away and if there were roof issues you would have brought that to our attention immediately.

Dds: In your report there’s an appendix with specific comments about each building.

Mrs. Cylke: The architect that you worked with, Bill is one of the lead architects in New England.

Mr. Noonan: You made no recommendation on whether we should repair? MGT was not retained to offer an opinion on whether we should repair or whether we should build new?

Dds: No.

Mr. Noonan: Does MGT offer those services?

Dds: Yes.

Ms. Nordquist: I know Mr. Knight and Ms. Bonollo had chaired this

before when it was originally put together before this committee was elected. Who is going to replace Mr. Knight?

Dds: I just want to let the Committee know that the School Department and its entire staff were very helpful especially Ernie Morgan the project manager.

Mr. Tenreiro moved to accept the MGT Facilities Report. Mr. Araujo seconded.

Roll call:

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Cylke: We will be putting this report on our web site and we have extra copies available for those who are interested.

5. FY12 Budget:

Mrs. Cylke: Mr. Conlon and I would like to give the School Committee an update on our FY12 budget. On Friday I'm having it delivered to you for your review and then we'll set a date for the formal presentation and public hearing and then we'll present the budget to the City.

I wanted to backtrack a bit. In January we pointed out that looking ahead we projected between a \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 budget deficit going into FY12. The actions that you took in January were really to adjust the FY11 budget deficit. Right now we're looking good as we move into the spring that we will have the \$1,500,000 that we were looking for to balance the FY11 budget. That in addition to the City having the \$1,800,000 deficit reduction plan.

Governor Chafee proposed his education budget last Tuesday and it has yet to be approved by the General Assembly. We really might not see this approved. It might be different. Sometimes it doesn't change until the midnight hour. This makes for a disastrous process and it makes keeping commitments to our employees very, very challenging.

Here is what the line item in Pawtucket was:

We started out with \$61,000,000. The Governor restores the Federal Stabilization funds. I thought what was that, did the Governor take out funds and then restore them?

Mr. Conlon: That is exactly the case as is the years before. We received Federal Stimulus monies that amounted to about \$9,000,000 over a three year period. Last year it was \$1,500,000. The Governor took it back last year also.

Mrs. Cylke: The group home revenue is down. The Governor announced that he was implementing the new funding formula and that would add \$2,100,000. What wasn't said was that the Federal Education Jobs monies were being pulled back out of the budget. We've been told by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees that when Governor Carcieri proposed his budget the assembly was well aware of the fact that the Medicaid funds were going to be about \$30,000,000 shy of what they had built into the budget. They passed that budget anyway. Last fall we had been cautioned by Carolyn Dias from RIDE that if we had seen the funding formula implemented, basically it was having the Education Jobs monies arrive in Rhode Island

As we go into FY12 this is what we are looking at now. If there was a deficit in the past they still exist. In FY10, we had a \$480,000 deficit those expenditures are carried forward. We started FY11 with a \$500,000 deficit and we also added those additional kindergarten teachers. The Governor had backed out the Education Jobs monies. You've been asked by the state to contribute \$1,200,000 more to the pensions. The group home revenue has been reduced. We have to budget for new step increases and we have contractual salary increases for teachers of \$1,900,000. You implement the funding formula and it brings us right back to where we said we'd be in January \$6,225,000.

This appears to be our structural deficit as we move forward. We are looking at all efficiencies and identify all the non BEP expenditures. We need to communicate that our funding from the City to the School Department needs to be restored back to the 2009 level plus the \$2,900,000. The City decreased it due to legislation allowing them to fund at 95% maintenance of effort and they also decreased it another \$1,500,000 citing 2008 declining enrollment numbers, when in fact enrollment has gone up in 2009 and continues to. We need to present the FY12 budget to the School Committee and then to the City Council and to the Mayor.

In terms of academic achievement Ms. Mercer and I have spent countless hours looking at math scores and looking at the new high school graduation rates. I'm confident that the academic team can achieve the goals in improving student achievement. It's going to be challenging. We need teacher evaluation tools.

Where might there be possible revenue? If the City level funds us at the 2009 level and we are currently talking to the teachers and can possibly get some concessions. I did change the high school schedule last week. There is a potential to gain \$5,500,000 and get our deficit to a \$700,000.

Ms. Nordquist: Are you going to present that high school change to us?

Mrs. Cylke: I would be happy to bring that back.

Ms. Nordquist: I know we're in a severe budget crisis but we also have to do what we have to do what's best for kids. I'd like to hear how this process came about and if it's good for students and what the benefits are. The professional and development are they areas where we need to add?

Mrs. Cylke: Those are areas where we spend money and I feel it's money well spent.

Mr. Coughlin: Back to this January 18th summary, did we or did we not vote to take \$2,900,000 in Federal Jobs funds and use it to pay down the deficit? I don't see it on the sheet here.

Mrs. Cylke: That wasn't done on January 18th.

Mr. Tenreiro: The Committee just dealt with the \$1,500,000 figure because the \$2,800,000 was already factored in.

Mr. Conlon: Before that there were already adjustments to actual in the fall.

Mrs. Cylke: Twice it was on the agenda that we would move forward and ask our union leaders to sit down and talk about possible concessions. Twice that vote was delayed because the Federal

Education Jobs monies were being pushed through Washington DC. In October we received word that the Education Jobs monies would actually be allocated and they arrived in Rhode Island and we received a letter saying this is your share. At the same time the state had reduced our revenue by 3%, \$1,800,000. The City had reduced our revenue by \$2,900,000 and we were moving forward by adding kindergarten teachers by about a \$500,000. In the fall I had a meeting with Mayor Doyle and we were trying to get at what's the number we need to get at to move forward? Education Jobs monies basically balanced out and reduced our revenues by and were almost a wash and there was an agreement to deal with the \$1,800,000 deficit reduction plan and that left the \$1,500,000. Mr. Chellel who was the Chairman at the time and Ms. Nordquist who were on the labor sub committee had several meetings with union officials and in January we had a new committee and the new committee expressed a desire to see what we could do to get through FY11 and negotiate just one time and focus on FY12. I think that's a solid strategy. Mr. Tenreiro, Ms. Nordquist and Mr. Araujo are in the process of having those discussions.

Mr. Coughlin: When was the decision to make you spend the \$2,900,000 in Federal Job monies?

Mrs. Cylke: It's not a decision that was made. It was the money that arrived.

Mr. Coughlin: Something I saw today said seven districts in the state touched that money the rest of the districts have not. So when was the conscious decision made that we were not going to hold those

funds and reserve them?

Mrs. Cylke: I would say October when we were dealing with the budget deficit. Here's the logic of that. We have a deficit and we have to go to our employees and ask for concessions. Our employees know that our federal government has allotted \$2,900,000 to deal with this issue so there was an expectation on the part of the employees that those monies that were intended to deal with the deficit were going to deal with the deficit.

Mr. Coughlin: What I'm trying to say is that RIDE has had red flags on that \$2,900,000 Federal Jobs funds right along and I don't remember them saying suddenly they're available.

Mr. Conlon: That didn't change but once again, the strategy was the knowledge was with the monies out there in order to save jobs in the school district the only way to save that \$2,900,000 was to seek concessions from the unions. That would have been difficult with them and everyone else knowing that these funds were becoming available.

Mrs. Cylke: That's what got us down to \$1,500,000. What I hear you saying is that if there are any federal monies coming in they are to be voted upon versus a correspondence update and I take that point seriously.

Mr. Coughlin: With all the flags out, I think it would have been more prudent to wait until June to find out if it was still there.

Ms. Nordquist: If we didn't use that money than the FY11 deficit would be higher. So either way the FY11 or the FY12 would be higher, right?

Mr. Coughlin: Not necessarily. The City has a deficit right now. They can't run on a deficit budget either. They made a decision for FY11 they are going to debt finance their way out of it or bond their way out of it. The same thing could have been done on our side of the house and not touched the \$2,900,000.

Mr. Conlon: Are you suggesting the City could have added the \$2,900,000 to their deficit fund?

Mr. Coughlin: Yes. There were other options that could have been put on the table without spending the Education Jobs monies.

Mr. Tenreiro: I agree with your assessment. The reality with the new Committee when we came in was that \$1,500,000 and I think that's what the previous group was looking for in concessions. How or why those other options weren't explored by the other committee I don't know. In January we couldn't address the \$2,900,000. Had they explored them last year we could be looking at something different. The thing I just want to say is that I really don't want to feel rushed with this. I'd like to have at least two public hearings.

Mr. Conlon: That is generally what we do.

Mr. Spooner: I'm glad we're getting it Friday because what I would like everybody to do is really look at it for a week and schedule a public hearing and get some input and turn it into the City Council.

Mr. Conlon: We have to have it in by April 30th.

Mrs. Cylke: These are agonizing decisions. I had a conversation with Mr. Beaupre this morning, when are we going to recall teachers? There is all this uncertainty. It was a great time in Pawtucket up until 2006 when the deficit began.

Mr. Tenreiro: Does any of the deficit expenditure being carried forward include restoring the medical reserve account or is that account going to be able to remain intact?

Mr. Conlon: The projection is we are going to use some of them but the funding recommendation by the consultant is to raise it by 1.5% and by doing that and assuming that and claims stay in the ballpark we can build up our reserves. Not enough to use them.

Mr. Tenreiro: To be clear on the \$2,900,000 that we hope the City restores, that reduction broken down the legislature allowed for the 5% Maintenance of Effort was really \$1,500,000? They tacked on \$1,400,000 based on enrollment figures that just exists out there somewhere.

Mrs. Cylke: There's no way we can have our budget reduced. Our enrollment is up and that's \$1,400,000 and the other number is \$1,500,000 and that is Maintenance of Effort and that statute is not in effect for the upcoming year. The City has to fund the School Department at 100%. There is a bill in the legislature allowing communities that didn't do that in the past to do that in the future.

Ms. Nordquist: If the City doesn't restore the funding, is there a hearing process to get the money back?

Mr. Conlon: The Commissioner has issued an interpretation of the law that says the cities and towns that use it have to replace it to the place they were before. Her interpretation is they have to bring it up to where it was before the reduction.

Ms. Nordquist: You hear constant complaints from taxpayers that we're asking for more money when all we are asking for is to be

funded at the same amount to provide an education. You can't turn kids away. I think it's important to say that we're not asking for an additional \$2,900,000, we're asking for \$2,900,000 that we should rightfully have.

Mr. Conlon: We're going to work with the City.

Mr. Coughlin: Even if the Commissioner writes an opinion and it has force of law we are entitled to these funds, what remedies do we have legally to enforce them besides Carualo? Do we have any? I don't think she has the power to order the City to cough up the money. I'd like Steve to opine on it.

Mrs. Cylke: I've conversed with Steve on this and he'll get back to us shortly. I spoke to Mr. O'Brien in Smithfield and he mentioned how Arne Duncan is outraged that this was federal money given to public school to help out.

6. Elimination of Special Reports of School Committee Members:

Mr. Tenreiro passed on this item this evening.

XII. Special Report of the Superintendent of Schools:

Mrs. Cylke: I have a very short report this evening. I wanted to let you know I testified on behalf of the Rhode Island Association of Superintendents regarding the March 1st lay off date. The AFT representative wanted to keep it and I was a little surprised and the rationale being that the teachers know early in March they can potentially start looking for jobs elsewhere. I don't really see it working that way because there aren't jobs announced elsewhere unless you're going far away. The proposal is you would let them know by June 1st. Our just want out teachers to know publicly that I

think June 1st is too far out. These are things we don't know in March. We don't have student projections from NESDEC. We don't have a budget and we don't have the Governor's budget. We haven't pre-registered our kindergarten kids. Everything you want to know to make an intelligent decision you just don't know.

March 29th, we're looking at having our first board of governance work session. We have a consultant coming in who I know you will really like and works with School Committees throughout the country. We hope to get a lot of work done that night as a governance team.

As of today I am a Pawtucket resident and will be paying my taxes and helping the cause.

Thank you.

V. Executive session:

The Chairperson commented that the committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provision under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining of the General Laws of the State of R. I. for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon: non-certified grievance litigation and to seal executive session minutes.

Ms. Nordquist: Thank you for having the certificates prepared for the Slater Basketball team. We have another state champion that won a sport and it's cheerleading. Tolman is a two time state champion last year and again this year. Hopefully we'll get them in.

Mr. Coughlin moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call:

**Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Coughlin-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes;
Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes**

Motion passed unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session at 8:26 PM to 8:52 PM.

VI. Reconvene Open Session: Roll call:

The Chairperson reconvened the open session at 8:56 PM.

Roll call:

**Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-here; Mr.
Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here Mr. Spooner-here**

VII. Report out vote(s) of executive session of 3/15/11, if applicable:

The Chairperson asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out.

**The Clerk reported that the Committee voted six to one to approve a
memorandum of agreement as amended and to unanimously seal
executive session minutes and adjourn executive session.**

XIV. Adjournment:

Mr. Tenreiro moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

**The Chairperson adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket
School Committee on March 15, 2011 at 8:57 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved April 12, 2011